

ARTICLE 10



Article 10: Recreation Fields Acquisition and Construction Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1, which shall be known as the Recreational Fields Acquisition and Construction Capital Reserve Fund, for the purpose of paying the costs of locating and acquiring property, including costs of due diligence investigation of the same, legal costs associated with purchasing property, etc., which property shall be utilized by the Town for recreational playing fields, and, additionally, for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing and establishing playing fields on such acquired property or other property, and to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) Dollars, to be placed into this fund, said sum to be raised from the unexpended fund balance, (surplus), to the extent that funds are available in said fund balance, and no amount to be raised from taxation, and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this Fund in accordance with RSA 35:15 II. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee unanimously supports this Article.)

This article provides the Town of Amherst a method to accept revenue from a private funding source for the purpose of acquiring or constructing recreational playing fields. A local business registers a fleet of vehicles in Amherst with the stipulation that the derived revenue is dedicated to Recreation for the purpose of developing athletic fields. A similar article was passed two years ago; however this authorization must occur each year to utilize this surplus for this purpose.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00 (none) Per Thousand

ARTICLE 11



Article 11: Peabody Mill Environmental Center Building Phase III LUCT Funding

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$225,000) for the purpose of

completing construction of the Peabody Mill Environmental Center facility located on Brook Road, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to RSA 79-A:25-a, (II), to withdraw said funds from the Land Use Change Tax Fund. This is a non-lapsing Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this Article by a vote of 6 to 1.)

The Town is seeking to complete the Peabody Mill Environmental Center utilizing Land Use Change Tax Funds. This would be Phase III of the project and would provide a 5,254 square foot facility that will add much needed indoor classrooms, office/storage space, and restrooms to the original one-room structure. Construction on the first two phases began several years ago after a private fund-raising campaign. The site was cleared, a portion of the existing structure was demolished and a new foundation was installed. This year, through the hard work of many volunteers, the building shell was erected and the facility was made weather proof. The P MEC volunteers have raised over \$260,000 to date to bring this project to its current state.

The goals in completing this project include:

- Construct a code compliant, handicapped accessible building addition*
- Provide shelter for users during inclement weather*
- Provide adequate and proper restroom facilities*
- Capitalize on the opportunity to make a real classroom-nature connection*

For those not already familiar with the center, P MEC is a nature education center owned and operated by the Town of Amherst. The center sits on the edge of the Joe English Reservation, a 600-acre pristine forest protected by the Amherst Conservation Commission. P MEC makes use of the extensive trail system and abundant natural habitats surrounding the center classes. The center offers a wide variety of educational programs open to the general public, including the popular Hartshorn summer environmental camp for children

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00 (none) Per Thousand